

Attorney Docket: 225/50785  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: BERND FREIWALD ET AL.

Serial No.: TBA Group Art Unit:

Filed: December 27, 2001 Examiner:

Title: JOINING CONNECTION, METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SAME  
AND A STEERING COLUMN FOR MOTOR VEHICLES COMPRISING  
SUCH A JOINING CONNECTION

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

The relevance of German patent document number DE3600134 to the subject matter of the present invention is given in the Background and Summary of the Invention in the specification of the present invention.

English abstracts of German Patent document numbers DE3704092, DE3616901, DE3807817, and DE2622753 are submitted herewith.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents,

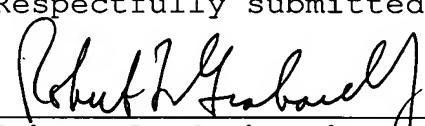
Applicants enclose herewith a copy of a corresponding foreign Search Report citing such documents and the portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

December 27, 2001

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert L. Grabarek, Jr.  
Registration No. 40,625

CROWELL & MORING, LLP  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844